



**North Dakota  
Criminal Justice Information Sharing**

**SAVIN – STATEWIDE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION  
NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**December 2007**

## Table of Contents

Project Description	1
Business Need/Problem	1
Fit with Organization's Mission	1
Business Goals	2
Cost Benefit Analysis	2
Project Risks	3

**Project Name:** SAVIN – Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System

**Project Short Name:** SAVIN

**Agency:** Information Technology Department and Department of Corrections

**Business Unit/Program Area:** Criminal Justice Information Sharing

**Date:** Start Date: October 2007; Target Completion Date (Wrap-up of all post-implementation work) June 2009

**Project Description:**

North Dakota plans to establish a Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system that provides victims of crime timely notification of criminal justice events relating to their case and the status of the accused/offender throughout the criminal justice process. The parties responsible for victim notification and stakeholders in the process recognize that a comprehensive system can only be achieved through a collaborative and coordinated effort. Because North Dakota has already had success with sharing information through the Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) program, the governance structure and technology will be leveraged for the SAVIN system.

**Business Need/Problem:**

North Dakota Century Code Chapters 12.1-34 outline the responsibilities of the entities responsible for providing victim information and notification. Depending on the step in the judicial process, different agencies are involved. Law enforcement agencies have responsibilities for providing non-confidential information regarding investigations and arrests. State's attorneys have responsibility for providing information regarding criminal charges, pre-trial release conditions, court proceedings and final disposition. The custodial authorities, including the Department of Corrections and 26 jails in North Dakota, are responsible for providing information regarding release from custody. Although the courts have no direct responsibility to provide information, their case management systems holds much of the information that a victim notification system requires.

Because of the large number of agencies involved, victim notification services are not provided in a consistent manner. The Department of Corrections has a Crime Victim Coordinator in the Parole and Probation Division, but for the most part local agencies do not have dedicated staff. In addition, because of the rural nature of the state, many local jurisdictions have small staffs and limited technology. Only six of the 53 state's attorneys have automated case management systems. Likewise only the largest of the 26 jails operate automated jail management systems so it is difficult to get information about those incarcerated in or released from local jails.

Since a variety of events can trigger notification, it is imperative to create an electronic system that allows these events to be transmitted and shared among state and local agencies, courts and victims.

**FIT with Organization's Mission:**

The mission of the Criminal Justice Information Sharing Division is to provide complete, accurate and timely information to the right criminal justice personnel at the right time. The CJIS governance ensures the involvement of key stakeholders in the criminal justice community. The new SAVIN System will provide automated victim notification processes. Offender status information will be collected and shared statewide through a new jail management system (JMS) or via interfaces to existing systems. The SAVIN and JMS systems will allow for information to be integrated with the CJIS Hub.

**Business Goals:**

The ultimate goal of this project is to provide a statewide automated victim information and notification program. A measure of success will be the number of users of the system after it goes into production. Other specific business goals are:

- Cooperatively share information between the Judicial Branch, the CJIS Justice Information Sharing (CJIS program), the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR), the Office of Attorney General, local law enforcement officials, state's attorneys, jails and the victim.
- The system must comply with state and national standards.
- Data must be captured statewide in order to automate information available to the victim.

**Cost Benefit Analysis:****Cost Estimate:**

The projected cost for the project is \$1.4 million. CJIS has received a Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) grant for the implementation of a SAVIN program. Ongoing costs for continued support are not covered by the grant. Estimates for ongoing costs are being prepared which will include system hosting, maintenance, and user support.

**Benefits:**

Consistent and timely information: Because of the large number of agencies involved, victim notification services are not provided in a consistent manner statewide. An automated solution would provide consistency and timeliness in the notification of victims. Victims and criminal justice agencies providing services to victims would have one place to go for information.

Automated process: The current victim notification process is a manual effort whereas notification of victims is done through paper and telephone. With the automation of this

effort, there exists an opportunity for the time saving efforts of staff to be redirected to perform other tasks. The actual cost savings are not able to be calculated as current hard costs are not available across agencies. The bottom line becomes less a savings of dollars than a redirection of human resources and time to tasks other than paperwork. (Opportunity costs may not provide dollar savings in a budget, but an opportunity to use resources in another way—one more directly linked to victim's services.) Although fractional and spread across the entire state, these savings in staffing resources will be real.

Self-service: The new system will give the victim, as well as other interested parties, the ability to look up information and request notifications without having to navigate the complexities of the criminal justice system to locate a person with the information. They will have access to victim advocate services if they want but will not be forced to receive notifications if they don't want them.

Better notification compliance: Current notification law is difficult to follow because as offenders change jurisdictions, victim information becomes outdated or lost. Victim contact information is hard to maintain and so notifications are difficult. By providing a central location to update victim contact information, a greater percentage of notifications will actually happen.

**Project Risks:**

North Dakota Century Code Chapters 12.1-34 outline the responsibilities of the entities responsible for providing victim information and notification. Therefore, various legal and political implications may occur for the responsible agencies if noncompliance occurs.

This is a multi-agency statewide project that requires buy-in and support from many stakeholders. Without this support, adoption of the system may not be widespread and the benefits will be limited.

Risks of not doing the project:

The current structure allows for non-notification of victims throughout the various criminal justice information notification processes. Therefore, victims may not be notified and the offender may cause possible harm to the victim or to the extent the loss of life can occur.

Federal funding may be lost if the project is delayed or cancelled.